

Snow or rain tonight:
partly cloudy tomorrow;
fresh, shifting winds.

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The Washington Times.

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1904.

YOU TALK TO ALL
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ADVANCE GUARD OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERS HERE

Headquarters at Shoreham Thronged by Convention Boomers.

CHICAGO SEEMS AHEAD

Feeling Akin to Confidence
Evident Among Incoming Politicians.

What may be termed the board of directors of the Democratic party—the Democratic National Committee—is assembling in Washington today. Its headquarters is at the Hotel Shoreham, where the national committee will meet tomorrow, and the next day, probably, for the purpose of determining the time and place for holding the next national convention of the party.

The out-of-town Democrats—that is, those who are not members of Congress—began to arrive yesterday, and there was a great influx today, not only of committeemen, but convention city boomers, and a long string of prominent Democrats who can always be depended upon to be on hand whenever there is anything "doing" in party politics.

A "National Democrat." The first of the prominent Democrats to arrive was Col. John I. Martin, known to the Democracy of the nation from Cape Cod to the Golden Gate. Colonel Martin is nominally attached to the Democracy of Missouri, where he lives, but he belongs to the Democracy of the nation. He is the sergeant-at-arms of the national committee, and came early in order to make preparations for the assembling of that body tomorrow. Colonel Martin established himself at the Shoreham, and has no time in "getting busy" about his work, so that everything will be in readiness when Chairman Jones' gavel falls tomorrow, calling the committee to order. Secretary Walsh is expected this evening from Iowa.

Colonel Martin incidentally brought with him a little boom for St. Louis as the convention city; that is, he started the talk about the Mound City as preliminary to the work which will be done by the big St. Louis delegation which will reach here this afternoon, headed by Mayor Rolla Wells.

St. Louis Prepared. "St. Louis is fully prepared to take care of the convention and the fair at the same time," said Colonel Martin. "We are putting up some fine hotels, which will be completed long before June, and we will be able to provide excellent accommodations at no advance in the usual rates. Besides, we have a convention hall which is in many respects better than the Coliseum in Chicago. It will seat 15,000 people, and is better equipped with exits than is the Chicago hall.

In addition to these inducements, the St. Louis people have come prepared to place a forty-thousand-dollar nest-egg in the Democratic campaign fund. An offer of a like amount was made for the Republican convention, but was passed up when Chicago raised the "ante" to \$50,000. Colonel Martin says that \$50,000 is now Democratic money and will be cheerfully turned over to the national committee if the convention meets in the World's Fair City.

Chicago Boomers Here. The Chicago boomers arrived here before the St. Louis delegation. They are headed by National Committeeman Gahan, and in the delegation are representatives of the Iroquois Club, the Democratic Club, and the County Democracy, sometimes rivals and sometimes allies in Cook county politics, but now united firmly to win the convention for Chicago.

The Iroquois representatives are Ora Williams, Colonel Lewis, Charles F. Gunther, Judge A. A. Goodrich, and Maxwell Edgar.

These from the County Democracy are Robert E. Burke, V. A. Perkins, and W. H. Colvin.

Louis G. Stevenson, son of the former Vice President, and Willis J. Abbott, of Michigan, arrived on the same train. Former Mayor Hopkins and Col. James Hamilton Lewis, who has left the Pacific Coast and has taken up his residence in the Windy City, are also prominent among the Chicago boomers.

The Chicagoans, not satisfied with the Republican convention, are determined to have the Democratic gathering as well. Committeeman Gahan said that he saw no reason why Chicago should not do as well by the Democrats as it had done by the Republicans, and as to the facilities of Chicago and the accommodations there was never any question.

New York will, however, contest with

NIGHT SCHOOLS VITAL TO CITY'S WELFARE

Board of Education, Teachers, and Pupils Plead for Its Continuance and Repeal of Age Limit.

When the Washington night schools close next month, because of the withdrawal by Congress of a part of their appropriations, more than 1,300 pupils, for this school term at least, will be deprived of further means of tuition. The decrease in appropriations for night schools and the fixing of an age limit has discouraged the Board of Education and hundreds of persons in the District who desire to take advantage of the night classes.

Two years ago Congress fixed the maximum age of night school pupils at twenty-one years. This cut off more than one-third of the pupils then in attendance and occasioned more distress among pupils than one would ordinarily imagine.

The value of night classes cannot be too highly appreciated, according to members of the school board, and the teachers directly involved in their conduct. The list of pupils attending these classes includes people in many different walks of life. There is the poor child who is compelled to donate his share toward the maintenance of the family, and is deprived of instruction during the day. Clerks in stores, messengers in Government departments, and representatives of the rougher element of humanity, as well as the refined classes, all contribute to making up the night school list.

Desire to Learn. Many interesting examples of the absolute need for the continuance of night sessions are brought to light every day. As an instance of the thrift and genuine desire to learn on the part of many of the attendants, a case was cited this morning of a country boy, sixteen years old, who is not able to read or write a line. Circumstances compel him to earn his own living and from 6 o'clock in the morning until the same hour in the evening the boy drives a wagon for a marketman. When his work hours are over, he hurries home for his dinner and in his seat at the night school when the class convenes. He is just beginning to realize the advantage of some sort of an education and is working zeal-

ously to gain it. The teachers are compelled to give him individual attention, inasmuch as he is not fitted to enter any class in the school.

Unnumbered pathetic cases present themselves even to a visitor. This was more noticeable before the age limit was fixed, and it was a familiar sight to see men and women of thirty-five and forty years working industriously over questions and problems that almost any child could master.

The officials of the schools declare the fixing of an age limit is not only a drawback to hundreds of persons, but a stain upon the Capital of the nation. Many persons who formerly attended the night classes were men and women who, through various reasons, were unable in their youth to obtain even elementary education and to whom the night schools were, in consequence, a boon. They are now forbidden to enter the classes and must, unless other means present themselves, go through life with the smattering of English, spelling and mathematics they have scraped up.

Remove Age Limit. In the interest of good citizenship, if for no other reason, members of the school board believe the age limit should be removed. When men and women who have reached the age of even twenty-five realize they are in need of common knowledge, and when they have the courage to join classes with little children whose entire lives are before them, then the board urges that this spirit should be encouraged, and these persons allowed to learn to spell, to read, and write, and to gain such small knowledge of the English grammar as the night classes permit.

Congress will, of course, be appealed to in the interest of men, women, and children seeking and craving education and deprived of attending the regular day schools in the necessity for earning a pittance for existence. The Board of Education and every citizen of the District is anxious that an increased appropriation may be given and the age limit of twenty-one years removed.

GEN. REYES DEPARTS;
HIS MISSION ENDED

Takes Leave of Mr. Hay and
Goes to New York.

Departments Receive News of Various
Movements of Colombian Troops.

General Reyes, Colombian envoy, today sent a letter of farewell to the Secretary of State, and will leave tonight for New York, where he will take the train for the Colombia tomorrow. In his letter he says he regards his mission here as ended.

Dr. Herran said today he had no present intention of leaving, and if any further negotiations are to be conducted they will be attended to by him.

General Reyes is reported to be returning to Colombia sooner than he expected, on account of the presidential situation at home. President Marroquin is said to have lined up his forces in such a manner that General Reyes may have trouble in obtaining the nomination for president. Rumors of immense political activity on the part of President Marroquin are said to have hastened General Reyes' departure.

Sees Secretary Hay. General Reyes was in conference with Secretary Hay at the Secretary's home, for more than an hour early this morning. The Secretary of State did not make public the results of the conference.

"Colombia has a small body of troops which she is constantly shifting about on her own soil," said a high naval official today, "but she has not approached Panama as yet, and she does so and do any violence down there the marines will be withdrawn and we will throw in two or three regiments of soldiers and stop all trouble."

"What does the department expect from there?" asked The Times reporter.

CLERKS FIND CHAMPION IN SENATOR STEWART

Thinks Government Quar-
ters Are to Blame.

Resolution Seeks to Ascertain How
Much Money Is Required to Pro-
vide Additional Help.

Opposition to the increase of the department working day was raised today in the Senate by Mr. Stewart of Nevada, who introduced the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Committee on Appropriations be instructed to inquire what amount of money would be necessary to provide sufficient additional clerks in the departments, to avoid the necessity of extending the hours of labor from 4 to 4:30 o'clock."

Mr. Stewart, immediately after the reading of the resolution, took the floor in its support. He declared the trouble was not too little time, but insufficient quarters in which the clerks had to work.

Would Make Hours Shorter. The Senator showed a close acquaintance with prevailing conditions in the departments. He said many of the clerks were aged and found it necessary to keep the windows closed. This produced a stifling atmosphere, he said.

"The longer they work, therefore, the less strength they have to do the work," contended the veteran Senator. "It would be better, in my opinion, if the length of the working day were decreased, instead of increased, and I would like to know from the Appropriations Committee how much the necessary extra clerk hire would cost the Government annually."

Spooner Wants Segregation. Senators all over the chamber looked up with interest when Mr. Stewart started his plea in behalf of the "overworked people of the departments." Many seemed to hear his remarks with approval, while others smiled in a cynical way.

"Why would it not be a good plan to concentrate the feeble persons in the departments in separate rooms and keep the windows closed?" Inquired Mr. Spooner.

The Nevada Senator thought the plan would be good enough if there was room enough; but as that was not the case, the suggestion was impracticable, he said.

Mr. Gallinger asked that the resolution go over, as it was an important question and should have careful consideration. It was so ordered.

TREASURY EMPLOYEES APPEAL TO MR. SHAW

A strong movement has been begun in the Treasury Department to procure an order from the Cabinet making the workday begin at 8:30 instead of 9 o'clock. Petitions are being circulated in several of the bureaus and will probably be circulated throughout the department. They ask Secretary Shaw to use his good offices with the Cabinet to bring about the change. The petitions are being generally signed by the employees.

PERSIAN MINISTER KHAN TRANSFERRED TO VIENNA

Gen. Issa Khan, Persian minister to the United States, has been transferred to Vienna. Announcement of this change was made this afternoon by Assistant Secretary Loomis.

MR. HAY OUT AGAIN AFTER THREE WEEKS

At His Desk in State Department for
Two Hours, But Is Not Entirely
Recovered.

Secretary Hay was at the State Department today for the first time in three weeks. He went to his office before 10 o'clock and remained there two hours.

Mr. Hay has not fully recovered from his recent attack of bronchitis. His voice has lost its hoarseness, and he no longer finds difficulty in talking.

Mr. Hay has been much weakened by his confinement, and will not be able to undertake his regular duties for some time.

The House shortly afterward adjourned.

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